

T News Letter **TDARS**

G3ZME
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

www.TDARS.org.uk

FOUNDED 1969

www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

Issue 269

July/August 2015

www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- July 1 Committee Meeting (7:30pm) and GX3ZME on the air
July 4-5 (Sat/Sun) VHF NFD from Long Mynd IO82NN. On site from 10:30 onwards
July 8 "Shropshire Raynet" - Eric G0GAL guest speaker
July 12 (Sun.) Lions Day on Wheels: Bowring Park, Wellington. Promoting Amateur Radio at this Telford Lions Club event.
15 July Ten Minute Topics: Bite size Tips and Hints
22 July Annual Summer Social Barbeque
July 29 Hack Green Secret Bunker visit. 7:30 pm there
August 5 Committee Meeting (7:30pm) and GX3ZME on the air
August 12 Microwaves explained—G3UKV, G8UGL et al
August 19 HamFest Preparation—crossing 't's and dotting 'i's.
August 26 Analysing Antennas—practical measurements on the Village Field
September 2 Final HamFest & Committee Meeting (7:30pm) and GX3ZME on the air.
September 6 (Sun.) TELFORD HAMFEST at Enginuity, Coalbrookdale 7:30am >>>
September 9 HamFest Review and Observations.
September 16 Aircraft Communications (tbc)
September 23 Talk on 'Transport' by local historian Neil Clark
September 27 (Sun.) 'Railways on the Air' at Telford Steam Railway (Horsehay)
September 30 Analogue and Digital Repeaters—guest speakers Dave & Matt Porter :
Moving on—analogue, DStar and Yaesu Fusion systems.

*For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.
For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Don M0TBQ or Andy 2E0YVN
[Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html](http://www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html)*

VILLAGE HALL, MALTHOUSE BANK, LITTLE WENLOCK, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE. TF6 5BG

Editorial

In all its 50 shades of grey, Amateur Radio is primarily about communicating. However, over the years I've met quite a few radio enthusiasts who hardly ever get on the air—some simply don't have time, others prefer building kit which when complete is put to one side and rarely switched on again; some are 'microphone shy' or prefer just listening; others may have lost interest but keep the licence alive until such time as interest re-awakens (or doesn't).

After last night's meeting preparing for VHF NFD in 10 days time, we seemed short of operators. At least one person present said contests were not his cup of tea—which is understandable, and no doubt others who were not present were of a like mind, and therefore stayed away. But club contests like NFD are a bit special because it is a group enterprise, and when we do well as we have for many years in VHF NFD, everyone present shares the sense of achievement and even glory! There is usually a great sense of camaraderie on the hilltop.

If you read these lines before the weekend of July 4-5, and can offer assistance of any sort, please get in touch. Setting-up and taking-down the four stations is quite involved, and can be difficult if the weather is wet and/or windy. As well as operating, helping with tents, logging, checking antennas, passing messages etc are all part of the challenge, where the more people that are present, the more efficient and satisfying the event becomes. How about it?

MIV

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**TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

**CHAIRMAN:** Eric Arkinstall M0KZB (01743 240286)

**VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)

**SECRETARY:** John Humphreys M0JZH (07824 737716)

**TREASURER:** Jim Wakenell G8UGL (01952 684173)

**CURATOR** : Don Nicholls M0TBQ (01952 411680)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)

**PUBLICITY :** Dave G0CER (01630 638699 or 07971 416940, leave msg)

**Committee:** Simon G0UFE; Eric M0KZB; Martin 2E0TRO; Brian G6UDX; Rob M0TOY; Trophies/Certs: G3UKV; .QSL Manager Paul M0PNN; Assist. Curator: Andy 2E0YV. Village Hall Committee Liaison officer Martin 2E0TRO



As many of you know, Richard G0VXG spends quite a few weeks each year in his villa in Menorca.

This picture Richard took in a local shop in Menorca perhaps explains his attraction to certain local agricultural products not available in Jackfield.

One wonders what else there might be behind the counter ?



# Qtc: News & Information



**TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME. ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM. MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM**

**Please note: A current membership card must be shown to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .**

**Members' Subscriptions** were due at the end of March at the AGM. Most members have renewed, but if you haven't, please settle up with Jim G8UGL as soon as possible. Your Society needs YOU !

The **surplus equipment sale** (May 13) was dominated with the station items of ex-member, but silent key, John G4ZJY. His son Stephen brought numerous items to the sale, and the majority was auctioned on the night. It was sad to see such a fine set of gear go under the hammer, but there were many satisfied customers that night, and of course TDARS benefitted too. Thanks Stephen and RIP John 'ZJY.



Photos M0RJ5



Another successful meeting took place in mid June, when **Ray Bullock G0EML** brought a selection of his amazing collection of morse keys to the club. Ray has a particular 'easy on the ear' chat style which held the attention of his audience for the evening, but also had members thinking about their hobby in new ways.

The third weekend in June was a double event for club members. At **Blists Hill Museum** (Madeley), it was a repeat event from the past two years, when a 1940s "Home Front" evening took place. Richard G0VXG, Martin 2E0TRO and Martyn G3UKV set up a couple of morse stations in the reconstructed Boys' Brigade wooden building for visitors to try their hand at sending and receiving morse code. The photo shown was taken at the event, but has no connection with tdars, but most readers will agree they are far more attractive to look at!



The other event was the annual **50MHz Trophy Contest**, where Simon G0UFE and several other members set up an effective contest station on the Long Mynd. About 350 QSOs resulted. Unfortunately, as this is being typed, no photos or report has been received on the Editor's desk from the participants, but we shall watch out for the results to be published on the RSGB VHF Contests webpages.

**Martyn G3UKV** has returned to the tdnars position of v-c he held until the last AGM.

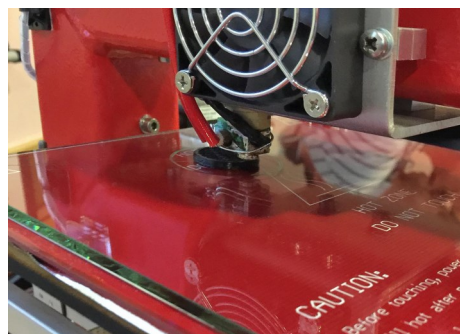
**“The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct boat trip date has now been confirmed.**

**This will be a 2hr long trip, the cost will be £10 per person with a £2 deposit per person first.**

However, only 5 places have been booked so far, and the minimum number is 20. So a decision needs to be taken shortly whether to proceed with the booking. Please contact Martin 'TRO immediately if you are interested in the trip.



Members were treated to an excellent talk and live demonstration by Neil Simmonds, M6TVS at the meeting of June17—**"Make your own 3D Printer"**. The photos below (thanks Eric 'KZB and Bob 'RJS) show both the printer in action (many parts of which were made by another 3D printer!) and a Wouxan transceiver in a casing made on this 3D Printer—absolutely fascinating and amazing. Neil covered many of the finer points of the available software, printer consumables and the techniques and pitfalls of this technology. In just under half an hour, a plastic bezel (?) was created in front of our eyes. The cherry on the cake was his request after the event to join TDARS. Welcome Neil !



**Thanks for Newsletter input this time from Martin 2E0TRO, Richard G0VXG, Bob M0RJS, Eric M0KZB, Kevin G8UPF, Derek G0EYX, Paul M0PNN, John M0JZH, Dave G0CER.**

**Next edition early September: Keep it coming please!**

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The **Marconi event at Tywyn** featured in both the Shropshire Star and Telford Journal newspapers at the end of April. It even received editorial comment (29/4/15): "During a 24 hour marathon broadcast, local radio hams had contacted hundreds of people around the world, from New Zealand and South America to Europe and beyond. Marconi may be yesterday's man, but his innovation lives on"(see below). Thanks to John M0JZH and Dave G0CER for the publicity. Simon 2E0MRS is shown sat in his 'combat gear' in his forces' Land Rover vehicle.

## Operators take to the airwaves to contact stations worldwide **Radio enthusiasts mark Marconi Day**

Report by Toby Neal  
toby.neal@shropshirestar.co.uk

**PORT STANLEY, Australia, New Zealand . . . Telford amateur radio enthusiasts made contact with other enthusiasts around the world in a special global link-up on the airwaves to commemorate Marconi's birthday.**

By the end of the 24-hour event the Telford enthusiasts had spoken to 317 UK and Ireland stations, 227 Europeans, and 78 radio fans from the rest of the world.

Telford and District Amateur Radio Society members had headed to Tywyn on the Welsh coast, where in a field they set up two radio stations, and at times three, including one set up in the back of a military Land Rover.

It was all part of the international annual Marconi Day event in which enthusiasts celebrate the birthday of the great radio pioneer.

Tywyn was chosen as the Telford group's base as it played a part in the Marconi story, as it was one of the locations where a Marconi radio receiver station was set up early in the 20th century.

### Global

Airtime action began at midnight GMT – 1am British Summer Time – with the first call sent by Telford electric engineer Simon Bird.

Early calls were to other stations in Britain, and then in Europe, before Tywyn began going truly global, first with Australia and New Zealand stations contacted, and then getting in touch with others in Russia, Asia, Ukraine, Norway, Spitsbergen, Chile, Canada, USA, Puerto Rico, Brazil and many others.

One highlight was when contact was made with "Janet" with the call sign VP8VPC in Stanley on the Falkland Islands. She was using a call sign originally given to a Marconi station on the Falklands.

Organiser John Humphreys of the Telford group said: "After weeks of planning



Telford and District Amateur Radio Society were broadcasting. Simon Shillabeer with his equipment in his Land Rover.

### TIME LINE OF RADIO PIONEER'S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Marconi started conducting experiments in 1895 in Pontecchio. He was soon able to send signals over 1.5 miles.
- He established the Wireless Telegraph & Signal Company Limited in July 1897.
- In 1899 he established the first trans-Atlantic wireless transmission in 1901. The Nobel Prize-winning physicist and inventor enabled the world to speak in real time – something that we can appreciate even in these fast-paced times of instant messaging and email.



Telford and District Amateur Radio Society meets at Little Wenlock Village Hall on Wednesday nights from 7.30pm and has its own website, [www.tdars.org.uk](http://www.tdars.org.uk).

The society originated in the 1960s when Wrekin Amateur Radio Society was established.

Operators

## Marconi spirit lives on today

**W**e're living through an age of 3D printing and 4G, of augmented reality and OLED displays.

The digital revolution is changing our lives quickly and permanently.

The rate of change is as profound as that experienced by our forebears during the Industrial Revolution.

Shropshire was, of course, the cradle for the Industrial Revolution and during that epoch the world embraced the steam train. Such technology seems old hat now. After all, why worry about steam when our movies are delivered via stream?

One of the world's most important post-Industrial Revolution technologies was created by Guglielmo Marconi. He sent the world's first trans-Atlantic wireless transmission in 1901. The Nobel Prize-winning physicist and inventor enabled the world to speak in real time – something that we can appreciate even in these fast-paced times of instant messaging and email.

His discovery was honoured by enthusiasts around the globe, including amateurs here in Telford. During a 24-hour marathon broadcast, local radio hams had contacted hundreds of people around the world, from New Zealand and South America to Europe and beyond.

Marconi may be yesterday's man, but his innovation lives on.

The club's new **HF multiband delta loop by Comet, the H422**, finally arrived in May. It should be very useful in future portable safaris, both local and DX.



***For those wondering what the neighbours will think of your new, dream antenna—take a look at this shot sent by Paul M0PNN . . .***

***Mind you, the camera can lie, as this shot (right), supposedly taken at the 2014 HamFest illustrates. Fake, fake, fake . . .***





## Little Wenlock Village Hall Quiz –by Kevin G8UPF

(Congratulations to Kevin & Peter for once again representing the club so successfully.  
Hope we can field a **full** team in 2016—Ed)

Sorry guys—we let the side down a bit this year—finished 3rd! Peter M1FGN and I recruited Bob from the village (whose wife Diane was playing for the W.I. team).



Things went swimmingly at first; we were in the lead for the first six rounds out of eight—our score then being 49, and nearest rivals 46. Round 7 levelled things up—we scored 7, they got 10, making 56 points each.

But last round was rubbish for us—a round called “Tastes of Britain”. We got 4 out of 10, making a total of 60. The winning team got 7, making 63, and another team ended up with 62 for second place. To make matters worse (for me anyway), one of the winning team won the raffle prize I wanted—a camp cook-set !

I did, however, win the individual prize (red wine—donated it to Pete after Bob refused it—Pete later gave me a bottle of white wine in its place), though I didn't think I would, with only 6 out of 10 correct.

Incidentally, one of the last round questions in the main quiz that foxed us was “Named after a County, what has suety base with meat one end and sweet the other?” ; we plumped for Cornish Pasty. The answer was ‘Bedfordshire Clanger’. The question setter was from Bedfordshire .....

As always, a fantastic evening—and at least TDARS now have a full set of Gold, Silver and Bronze !!

Bob and Diane very kindly gave me a lift to Broseley—cutting down my walk home afterwards.

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***No Newsletter would be complete without some H & S advice. This sent in by Derek G0EYX***

## 38 AMERICAN ELECTRICIANS' HANDBOOK [Sect. 1

## MEASURING, TESTING AND INSTRUMENTS

90. Electricians often test circuits for the presence of voltage by touching the conductors with the fingers. This method is safe where the voltage does not exceed 250 and is often very convenient for locating a blown-out fuse or for ascertaining whether or not a circuit is alive. Some men can endure the electric shock that results without discomfort whereas others cannot. Therefore, the method is not feasible in some cases. Which are the outside wires and which is the neutral wire of a 110-220 volt, three-wire system can be determined in this way by noting the intensity of the shock that results by touching different pairs of wires with the fingers. Use the method with caution and be certain that the voltage of the circuit does not exceed 250 before touching the conductors. (This and the several paragraphs that follow are taken from *Electrical Engineering*.)

91. The presence of low voltages can be determined by "tasting." The method is feasible only where the pressure is but a few volts and hence is used only in bell and signal work. Where the voltage is very low, the bared ends of the conductors constituting the two sides of the circuit are held a short distance apart on the tongue. If voltage is present a peculiar mildly burning sensation results which will never be forgotten after one has experienced it. The "taste" is due to the electrolytic decomposition of the liquids on the tongue which produces a salt having a taste. With relatively high voltages, possibly 4 or 5 volts, due to as many cells of battery,

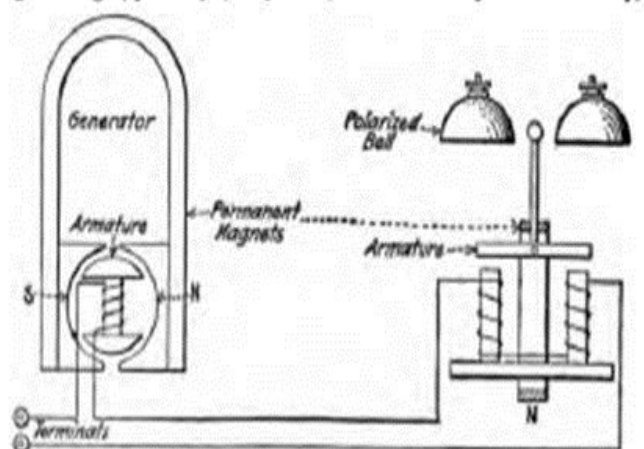
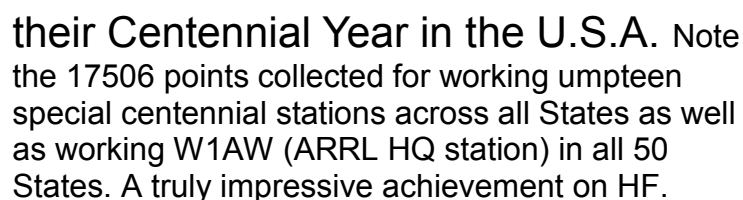


FIG. 44.—Circuits of testing magneto.

It is best to first test for the presence of voltage by holding one of the bared conductors in the hand and touching the other to the tongue. Where a terminal of the battery is grounded, often a taste can be detected by standing on moist ground and touching a conductor from the other battery terminal to the tongue. Care should be exercised to prevent the two conductor ends from touching each other at the tongue, for if they do a spark can result that will burn.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Paul M0PNN. Paul worked hard last year to work the ARRL awards for



This was our first real outing for the year's portable events, and it inevitably needs some organisation before we can get to the day. Each year I like to have something different to offer so that it is not the same, and evolving is one of those things that whilst it is good on paper, and for the first few times it is easy, then you start to run out of options!

Well this year was going to be different. We have in previous years been fortunate that Rob MOTOY has come along and with him, his magnificent beam for 10/15/20m; however this year Rob was unable to come, so we had to look elsewhere for our antennas. The club decided that we could do with a HF antenna, and a Comet H422 was ordered - sorted - No it was not, it was out of stock in the UK and we had to wait for the next container load to leave Japan. Simon 'UFE suggested we use the ICOM AH-710 that he had acquired. We had previously used this at Wappenshall, albeit at a low height, but how to put it up? We needed it as high as possible, if we were to make this antenna work as effectively as it could. We might end up taking a large amount of metal just to hold the wire in the air! So we took the trailer mast, and also two sectional masts, and we got the antenna up to about 40' off the ground at the centre and about 30' high at each end. However it worked better than we expected it to, across many bands from top band to 40m. This was one station taken care of. The second station came courtesy of Paul 'PNN, who provided the antenna (Comet H-422), Speedy contributed with his radio (FTDX1200), and we had two stations.



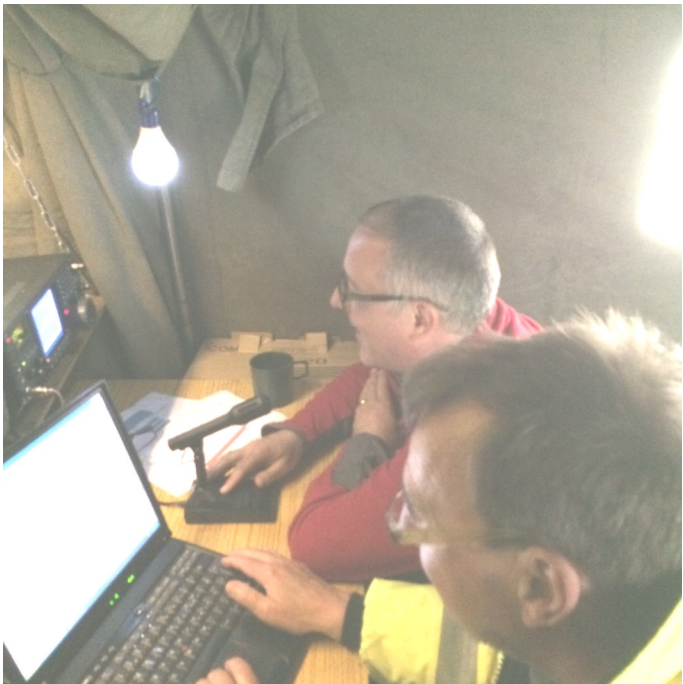


A few calls were put out before the 1am start to test the station using GC3ZME/p: we were in business.

CQ Marconi Day using the callsign GB8MD The other thing that we did this year that we have not done before was to use computer logging, Winlog32 was the software (free download), on both of the stations. Winlog32 does not need a very powerful computer to run, and just as well really as both computers that we used were given to the club and run Windows XP. What it did mean is that the computer logs were over with Paul very soon after we arrived home, and then up onto Club Log soon after that; so people who worked us were able to request the QSL card without using the bureau, and the checks are done on Club Log to verify the call before they come through to Paul, hopefully saving him more work.

Over the weekend we contacted 317 UK & Ireland stations, 227 from the rest of Europe, and 78 from elsewhere in the world. Highlights were contacts made into the Falkland Islands New Zealand and Australia.

A special thank you from me to all who came and operated and or logged, without you all it would have been so much harder to achieve in the way that we did, and of course everyone had to spend a couple of hours travelling just to be there - Thank you.



Photos:  
M0JZH,  
G0CER

| Operators / Loggers    |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Simon Bird             | G0UFE  |
| Speedy                 | 2E0KLS |
| Don Nicholls           | M0TBQ  |
| Jim Wakenall           | G8UGL  |
| Paul Bowen             | M0PNN  |
| David Bowen            | MW0UAA |
| Simon Shillabeer       | 2E0MRS |
| David Holman           | M0YDH  |
| Visitors               |        |
| Albert Hamilton        | 2E0KDF |
| Eric Arkinstall        | M0KZB  |
| Dave Harris            | G0CER  |
| Peter Westwell         | 2E0ZSU |
| Trevor Bate            | 2E0TTB |
| Alan Mullinder         | M6ADD  |
| Bob Somerville-Roberts | M0RJS  |
| Mike Pymm              | G6DFD  |